

Message Text

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ORIGIN ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 ITFE-00 AID-05 SCA-01

SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 NSC-05

VO-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 H-02 USIA-06 SP-02 PRS-01 INSE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, TH, OGEN

SUBJECT: REFUGEES IN THAILAND

REF: BANGKOK 22274

1. REPORTS FROM AREAS OF REFUGEE CONCENTRATIONS IN THAILAND CONTINUE TO DESCRIBE DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS AND ABSENCE OF CARE OR ORGANIZATION TO MEET MOST CRITICAL NEEDS. REFTEL GIVES TRAGIC ACCOUNT OF LIVING CONDITIONS FOR CAMBODIAN REFUGEES WHO IN MANY CASES ARE SUFFERING FROM TUBERCULOSIS, MALARIA AND MALNUTRITION. BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR FOOD, SHELTER, CLOTHING AND MEDICINE ARE NOT BEING MET. MOREOVER, THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT SOME REFUGEES FOUND IN BANGKOK ARE SUBJECT TO ARREST AND DE-
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TENTION IN IMMIGRATION JAIL WHERE LIVING CONDITIONS ARE

THOSE ACCORDED TO COMMON PRISONERS.

2. WE HAVE ALREADY APPROACHED DEPUTY UNHCR AND MADE HIM AWARE OF OUR VERY SERIOUS CONCERN OVER LACK OF PROGRESS IN GETTING HIS PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE UNDERWAY. WE UNDERSTAND THE DIFFICULTIES UNHCR IS EXPERIENCING IN HAVING TO ACT THROUGH AN INEXPERIENCED AGENT, BUT WE DO NOT HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE IS THE SENSE OF URGING THAT THE SITUATION DEMANDS. PERHAPS THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

SHOULD CONSIDER AN AUGMENTATION OF HIS STAFF IN THAILAND TO GIVE THE PROGRAM A NEW IMPETUS. HE MIGHT ALSO CALL ON THE INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY AGENCIES FOR THEIR CO-OPERATION AND ASSISTANCE.

3. U.S. MISSION SHOULD MAKE A NEW AND IMMEDIATE APPROACH TO UNHCR AT THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL AND EMPHASIZE OUR CONCERN DRAWING ON THE FOREGOING AND ON INFORMATION PROVIDED IN REFTEL. SINCE SADRUDIN IS CURRENTLY IN NEW YORK, IT WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL FOR USUN TO APPROACH UNHCR MISSION NEW YORK ALONG SAME LINE SO THAT MESSAGE WILL BE CONVEYED DIRECTLY TO HIM. ADDRESSEES MAY ALSO INFORM UNHCR THAT WE EXPECT TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO HIM IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AN ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION AS PART OF THE 5.6 MILLION DOLS. COMMITTED FOR REFUGEES IN THAILAND. INGERSOLL

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